

Transportation Equity Advisory Group Notes

December 12, 2018

Presentation about Measuring Displacement

Michelle Rushing, of the Georgia Health Policy Institute at Georgia State University presented a series of maps and measurements aimed at capturing data about displacement of people in the Atlanta region. The presentation focused upon the ways that 1930's housing policy enforce racial segregation in ways that continue to impact communities in Atlanta in 2018. The data falls along similar geographical patterns for all indicators of quality of life, health, and prosperity. For example, there is an 18 year life expectancy gap between people living in Bankhead and Buckhead. Some resources for measuring or predicting displacement include:

- <https://www.opportunityatlas.org/>
- <https://www.atlantastudies.org/>
- <http://www.urbandisplacement.org/>
- <http://neighborhoodnexus.org/>
- <https://evictionlab.org/>

Discussion

The group discussed potential solutions and strategies that have supported individuals and communities over time. One major questions about measuring displacement is whether people who live in and are from affected communities are involved in the conversations. They may be best equipped to “predict” displacement even beyond and ahead of what data is able to tell us.

Conversations about housing considered today's options for housing that is affordable but designed to be temporary, like the YMCA used to be. Today's options seem to be extended stay hotels. Group discussed finding out which organizations are working around issues concerning qualifications for home loans including [HouseATL](#). Discussion concerned what happens to people after major redevelopment and investments are made in neighborhoods. For example, less than 20% of people who lived in East Lake before the housing projects were redeveloped were able to return. There are similar impacts to peoples' ability to secure affordable housing with the switch from public housing projects to individual housing vouchers. These impacts affect many factors of civic life, including voter engagement.

There was a lot of interest in continuing a dialogue, however the group agreed on a need to find a focused discussion as well. To honor meeting time, the group moved on to the next agenda item.

Presentation of 2018 TEAG accomplishments

Melissa Roberts, Atlanta Regional Commission, lead the group in a review of the accomplishments since group formation in February 2017. A handout was presented (and posted on ARC's TEAG webpage) that lists these accomplishments.

A few highlighted accomplishments are the group formation and development of consensus around defined values around transportation equity, as well as establishment of a group charter.

Group also contributed to updated environmental justice analysis measure, including demographic mapping, specific performance measures for incorporating equity into project selection.

Having this group convene regularly with active participation from the groups around the table is generating momentum within ARC.

Presentation on group survey results

Total of **13 respondents** (32%) to the survey out of a membership size of **41 people** (excluding ARC staff). Below are the questions/responses.

1. Have you been attending the ARC Transportation Equity Advisory Group? **92% Yes; 8% No**
2. If not, why? **Atlanta traffic** (Only response)
3. If yes, what do you believe is going well? **(Top 5 responses)**
 - “Consistent meetings with a predetermined agenda. Also, the collaborative efforts from different organizations or groups.”
 - “Excellent discussion and confidence that we can trust ARC staff to make use of participants’ recommendations.”
 - “The series about measuring equity is helping to ground the work of the shared values and mission.”
 - “Communication between the counties.”
 - “Commitment from ARC staff, frequency of meetings, clarity on agenda, follow up on tasks.”
4. Would you like to remain on the mailing list for meeting invitations and minutes? **100% Yes**
5. Is there anyone else you’d recommend joining the Transportation Equity Advisory Group?
 - A rep from MARTA and GDOT were suggested
6. What priorities do you think we should tackle in 2019? **(Top 5 responses)**
 - “Improving public engagement across all transit efforts (MMIP projects, More MARTA, ATL regional transit plan, Concept 3 update, etc...”
 - “Transit tradeoffs and options - frequency of service and high capital need projects”
 - “Determining ways to get state and local agencies to incorporate similar principles in their project selection processes”
 - “Light rail and auto transport”
 - “1) Continue monitoring regional transportation projects and advocate for equity principles 2) Continue sharing information on transportation projects with community and transportation advocates to help us stay abreast of developments and opportunities to advocate for vulnerable populations.”
7. If there is anything else you would like to share, please do so below.
 - “This group should present its' findings to the MARTA Board quarterly or twice a year. Though the info is often shared with TCC, the MARTA Board should also be briefed periodically. It has all the decision makers at the table. Unlike the TCC which has representatives of the decision makers.”

Discussion about 2019 TEAG direction

Group emphasized a desired to remain focused on specific tasks in 2019, with suggestions around the following options:

-incorporate equity scenarios into long range plan, akin to Urban Habitat [example from MTC](#) in San Francisco

-focus on collective impact and influence: can we invite policy makers to see presentations from group/hear what group has to say; can group rally together around certain advocacy directions, ranging from local to state

-continue to see and evaluate what ARC is doing to select project that produce equitable outcomes and do not gentrify places by their implementation

-can group help ARC select projects (in particular bus investments) that will shorten the commute time between necessary destinations (ie. good jobs) and housing for lower income people?

-should this group bring together people from other organizations in a way to better influence implementation and advocacy around a range of cross-cutting policy arenas?

-long-term, what should agencies in the region be doing to advance equity; pay attention to the [P4 Pittsburgh](#) effort to see what lessons could be learned

-focus on transit; including project selection, and advocacy for more projects – like express buses serving lower income communities; get access to purchase Breeze card in Clayton County.

-make call-in options available for every meeting.